DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.—JOHNSON.

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S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

NEW YEAR.

OLD Time, in his rapid, ceaseless revolutions, has brought us to another year, and we must now prepare for another farming campaign. The intelligent farmer has before him an extensive field for improvement, and various means to aid him in accomplishing his object. During the winter, he will store his mind with knowledge from reading, conversation, and reflection, and commence operations in the spring, and design his experiments with more zeal, energy, and confidence, from fresh information, maturer plans, and more intelligent views.

To some of our friends, who thought that they would give us articles before now, we would say, that they will be acceptable at any time. We trust that they will not disappoint us. We hope that our readers, generally, who have gathered important facts from their experience or observation, will be liberal and communicate them, that others may profit by them as well as themselves. The liberal diffusion of information is characteristic of American farmers, and we hope that no one will make himself an exception to this noble compliment, by withholding facts that would be conducive to individual prosperity and the public welfare.

The science and the best system of practice in agriculture are formed from the accumulation and arrangement of facts; and the most humble and retired individual, who cultivates the soil, or attends to rural pursuits, may contribute important items for the promotion of improvement.

If any of our readers would have more matter on any subjects, or have any investigated and discussed in our columns, they will please direct attention to them. In the wide circle of many thousand readers, there are some well skilled in almost every department that can be presented. Inquiries may call out able articles from those who otherwise might remain silent. And while the inquirer gains knowledge from those who kindly attend to his requests, he that communicates is led, by this exercise of his faculties, to further investigation and experiments, so that in the end he will find it "more blessed to give than to receive."

WINTER MANAGEMENT OF FOWLS.

The great art in the management of hens, in order to render them profitable, is to cause them to lay in winter, as it is this season in which eggs are scarce and high. If a person keeps a flock of hens in order to supply his family with eggs, or for the purpose of selling the eggs in market, he must manage so that they will lay in winter, else they will not generally pay their expenses. For in the first case, he will be under the necessity of buying eggs when they are very dear, and if he produces eggs for the market, he has them only when every body's hens lay, and he must sell them at a low rate.

To cause hens to lay in winter, furnish them with a warm, dry shelter, in a warm location, where they can be free from cold winds, and enjoy a good share of sunshine. The hen-house should be kept clean, and all filth from remains of food should be carefully removed. There should be a good supply of gravel, which ought to be renewed occasionally, or dug over so as to furnish a fresh lot often.

Hens should have a constant supply of pure water, and pure, wholesome food. They are fond of corn, wheat, barley, oats, buckwheat, rye, rice, millet, boiled potatoes, and various other kinds of food. Generally, the cheapest grain may be used as their principal food; but it is better to supply them with several kinds. They are very fond of corn, and they flourish well with this as their main food. Boiled potatoes, mashed up, while hot, with meal of almost any kind of grain, or with wheat bran or shorts, and given warm, are an excellent food in cold weather, and greatly promotes laying. Changes in food are advantageous. Hens prefer variety, as well as non-feathered bipeds.

In winter, and in summer, when confined to small yards, hens should have a small supply of animal food. Refuse meat or fish may be given, cooked or raw. Scraps are often obtained, for this purpose, from the tallow dealers; but this is not so acceptable to hens as fresh meat or fish, which may be obtained at a cheap rate, or gratis, from the fish market or butcher. Fresh, unburnt bones, pounded or chopped fine, are excellent, as they supply both animal food and lime.

Hens need various condiments, such as lime, chalk, or pounded bone and oyster shells. Egg shells are also good. Lime may be given in old mortar. They must have some material to form egg shells, when they cannot have access to the ground, even if they have a supply of gravel. They should also have, occasionally, some green food, such as cabbages, or raw turnips, potatoes, or apples, cut in large slices, and they will peck and eat what they want.

Though hens should be kept warm in winter, they should not be crowded together in large lots without ventilation, as they will be liable to disease from impure air. In mild weather, when the ground is bare, they should go out in the sun. In feeding boiled potatoes and other warm food to hens, it should be given early in the morning, and the grain should be covered up at night, else they will fill themselves with that before they get a warm breakfast. Give dry loam or ashes to roll in.

With good management, generally in accordance with what we have recommended, hens will lay well in winter, if they are of good breeds, and not too old, and are in healthy condition. If they do not lay, with much care and attention, give them a very little cayenne in their mixed food, and warm, stimulating food. Hens often suffer in winter for want of exercise. They will fly from their roost, eat their breakfast, and stand almost motionless, and go to roost again soon after noon, especially if they are in rather a dark house.

We avoid this evil by covering their grain up in gravel, and let them scratch for a living, which gives them exercise that is conducive both to their health and comfort, and to their laying. Whether they have gravel in large boxes, or on a ground floor, mix the grain up several inches deep in it. This is often essential to success, as sometimes hens will not lay without their being reduced to the necessity of taking exercise. Bury the grain so that they must have considerable labor in finding it, leaving a little on the top and near the surface to induce search for more. This is the best remedy for laziness; as that exercise which gains the food, gives a good relish for it.

We will name a few among the many instances of the profit of hens in winter when well managed. One winter, we had eight hens, which were well supplied with water, grain, and gravel, but did not lay in winter — not one egg in January. The next winter, we tried what could be done with the same hens, then the worse for age, as they were mostly old hens. They were in the same house. We gave them warm food and condiments, and buried their grain in gravel and old plaster, and they laid eggs enough in January to pay three times the expense for their food.

J. S. Sayward, Esq., editor of the Bangor Courier, in an article furnished to us for the Yankee Farmer, stated that from one hundred and fifty hens he had nineteen hundred eggs in the month of January. This was in the cold region of Down East. Numerous other cases might be named of large profits from extra attention in managing hens in cold weather.

PROFIT IN PEARS.

In the fall of 1848, Mr. John Washburn, of Plymouth, bought two dwarf pear trees, (on quince stocks,) at $1.25 each. He set them that fall, and in less than a year from planting the trees, he took a dozen pears from them, and exhibited them at the annual show of the Mass. Horticultural Society, for which he received a premium of $6, and he sold the pears for $3 — making a dividend of $9 on the small investment of only $2.50. The pleasure and reputation of so successful cultivation will pay ten times the trouble. The variety was the Louise Bon de Jersey.

Town Agricultural Meetings. — At a late meeting of the Hillsborough, N. H., Agricultural Society, voted, as a means of promoting an interest among farmers and mechanics, to hold monthly meetings in different towns during winter, for the purposes of hearing addresses from competent persons, and discussing such subjects as have been proposed at a previous meeting.

Large Potatoes from Seed. — Mr. Anthony Hatch, of Saugus, has shown to us some handsome, full-grown potatoes raised from seed planted in a hotbed last spring.

Lime. — It is a singular fact, that in many parts of the world, soils resting on limestone, which is within a few feet of the surface, contain no more lime than those where is no limestone.

Agricultural Meetings. — The first meeting at the State House will he held on Tuesday evening, the 15th inst.

☞ We have on hand several communications, which will appear in our next number.

SWELLING OF THE THROAT IN HOGS.

In order to contribute to the usefulness of your valuable periodical, and to inform the public of what I find to be an infallible cure for a certain disease with hogs, viz., the swelling of the throat, I herewith send you a receipt for the disease, with a desire that you publish the same in your work, if you deem it of any import, and the same meets your approbation.

Take of molasses one half a pint, and a teaspoonful of hog's lard; to this add of brimstone a piece an inch long. Melt it over the fire, and when it is cold, or in a liquid state, drench the hog with it; and nine times out of ten it will be found to have the desired effect. My hogs were affected with this disease during the past year, and I found the above to be effective when all else failed. — *Far. Reg.*

Money skilfully expended in drying land by draining it, or otherwise, will be returned with ample interest.

THE BANKIVA COCK.

These fowls are remarkable for their spirited and wild appearance, and some writers upon the subject consider them as the foundation of all the races of domestic fowls, as they are traceable to this original breed. But such statements need confirmation; and as it will be a curious matter in natural history to know what race is the parent of all breeds, we should like to see the evidence in favor of this position. But to establish the fact beyond doubt, that the Bankiva fowls are the progenitors of all others, it will be necessary to show that they were all the gallinaceous race that emigrated from Noah's ark.

Our beautiful portrait of this fowl is taken from the American Fowl-Breeder; and from the same interesting work we copy the following description:—

"The Bankiva fowl is a native of Java, and is characterized by a red, indented comb, red wattles, and ashy-gray legs and feet. The comb of the cock is scolloped, and the tail elevated a little above the rump, the feathers being disposed in the form of tiles or shingles; the neck feathers are gold-color, long, dependent, and rounded at the tips; the head and neck are of a fawn color; the wing coverts a dusky brown and black; tail and belly black. The color of the hen is a dusky ash-gray and yellow; her comb and wattles much smaller than those of the cock, and, with the exception of the long hackles, she has no feathers on her neck. These fowl are exceedingly wild, and inhabit the skirts of woods, forests, and other savage and unfrequented places. These Bankiva fowl are very like our Bantams, and, like those pretty little birds, are also occasionally to be seen feathered to the feet and toes."

Tea has been successfully cultivated by Dr. Smith, of South Carolina.

SMALL POTATOES.

Some years ago, a gentleman, visiting a farmer in Tolland, Connecticut, took from his pocket a small potato, which somehow had got in there at home. It was thrown out with a smile, and the farmer taking it in his hand to look at it, a curious little boy of twelve, at his elbow, asked what it was.

"O, nothing but a potato, my boy. Take and plant it, and you shall have all you can raise from it till you are free."

The lad took it, and the farmer thought no more about it at that time. The boy, however, not despising small potatoes, carefully divided it into as many pieces as he could find eyes, and put them into the ground. The product was carefully put aside in the fall, and planted in spring, and so on until the fourth year, the yield being good; and the actual product was four hundred bushels! The farmer, seeing the prospect that the potato field would by another year cover his whole farm, asked to be released from his promise.

With the same calculation, prudence, and industry, how many who are disposed to regard the trifling things on which fortunes are built, as too small potatoes to receive their attention, would have been independent in circumstances, if they had husbanded small advantages. Small potatoes should not be despised, even though there be at first but few in a hill. — *Selected.*

Naturalists tell us of one advantage which instinct has over genius, evinced in the construction of a bird's nest, inasmuch as the first nest built by a bird of any species, was as perfect as nests constructed at this day are.

Spring water is to be introduced into London, by a company with a capital of £350,000.

NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, AND PLANTS.

Our obliging and intelligent correspondent, S. P. Fowler, Esq., who is distinguished as a successful cultivator, an enthusiastic admirer of nature, and a nice and accurate observer, proposes to furnish us with several articles on the cultivation of such native trees, shrubs and plants as are distinguished for their beauty or singularity, together with the soil and locality in which they flourish. We now give the article on native herbaceous plants. He will furnish two more articles in this series, one on native trees, the other on native shrubs.

CULTIVATION OF NATIVE PLANTS.

Mr. Cole: After some experience in the cultivation of native plants, we have found a considerable number of them, which are desirable for their beauty, wholly unfit for cultivation, in consequence of their troublesome and weedy habits, in filling the garden with their seeds, or crowding out, with their roots, all other plants in their neighborhood. For when once permitted to take root, they at once take possession and occupy all the ground around them, and are extremely difficult to extirpate. The names of some of these plants are the Succory, (*Cichorium intybus,*) having large, elegant blue flowers, commonly found by road-sides; the large Bindweed, (*Convolvulus sepium,*) a fine climbing, or rather twining plant, common in low grounds; the Toad Flax, (*Anteripinum linaria,*) with a handsome spike of yellow flowers, — thought by Dewey not to be indigenous, but introduced,— found by the side of roads; *Epilobium*, or Willow Herb, a fine, showy plant, with purple flowers, found by the side of woods.

In the cultivation of native plants and shrubs, we shall also introduce into our grounds many new insects, many of which invariably follow them to their new location. That elegant butterfly, the *Papilio plexippus*, with its delicate green-colored *pupa*, with dots of burnished gold, follows the beautiful orange-colored flowering *Asclepias tuberosa* into our gardens. The *Attacus promethea* is found on the cultivated Fever Bush, and also on the *Cephalanthus*, or Button Bush. On the first-mentioned shrub under cultivation, may now be seen, the leaves are fallen, fifty or more chrysalids of these insects, enclosed within a dry, curled leaf, attached firmly to a twig, and swinging in the breeze. The Trumpet Weed, and the New England Aster, having fine, sweet-scented, aromatic flowers, attract many insects, particularly the different kinds of wild bees, and that class of uneasy butterflies called *Skippers*, so named from a singular habit they have acquired of jerking their wings, and thereby producing an undulating flight.

We find also, upon trial, many native plants difficult to cultivate; and, after a few years, they entirely disappear, unless especial care is bestowed upon them. They appear to suffer most from the effects of freezing and thawing in the winter, thus injuring the crown of their roots; or, being thrown out of the ground by the action of the frost, they are destroyed. They receive some protection, in a natural state, by being in winter covered with water, grass, leaves, or snow; and should likewise be protected, under cultivation, by throwing over them hay, straw, litter, or earth.

The names of some of these comparatively tender plants, are the Pleurisy Root, (*Asclepias tuberosa,*) with its bright, orange-colored flowers. It is a rare plant in this vicinity, and I know of none in a wild state. The rich flowering *Liatris scariosa*, with its raceme of bright purple flowers. Its root is a solid tuber, and truncated; that is, it has the appearance of its end being bitten or cut off. The popular name of this plant is the *Devil's Bit.* I was informed, many years ago, by an old root doctor, that it received its last appellation in this way: It having come to the knowledge of the great adversary that this plant was useful to mankind, and possessed great medicinal properties, he, in order to show his enmity to our race, bit off the end of the root, thereby depriving it of most of its useful properties. Upon doubting the truth of the legend, and observing to him that the roots of some other plants presented the truncated form, "Why, bless me!" replied the old man, "don't you see the marks of his teeth?"

The *Liatris* is found growing, with us, in a clayey soil, on the borders of woods. Fine specimens of this plant can be easily obtained by seedlings. The splendid Cardinal Flower, when once introduced into a garden, will propagate itself by its seeds, and produce some fine plants. The Indian Turnip, or *Arum*, with its singular flower, variegated inside with stripes of pale green or brown. In autumn, the plant presents its bunches of shining scarlet berries. The *Neottia pubescens*, or Rattlesnake Plantain, with its dark green leaves, veined with white — a pretty plant, found in woods. The Soap Wort Gentian is a handsome autumnal plant, with blue flowers. The several species of the *Orchis*, particularly the *Fimbriated* and the *Grandiflora*, both elegant plants, and to be found in a swamp bordering on Pleasant Pond, in Wenham. The *Rhexia Virginica*, a showy plant, with purple petals, and long, crooked, yellow anthers, found in low grounds.

There is another class of native plants, that require no particular care, but, when once introduced into our gardens, continue to grow and thrive for many years. The names of some of these are the Asters, particularly the New England, which can be made to grow to the height of ten feet, and bearing upon its spreading top several hundred flowers. The Golden Rods, many of them coarse, but showy plants.

The *Apocynum*, or Dogsbane, is a pretty plant, with a creeping root, found in dry soils. It is remarkable for possessing, in a high degree, the property of a fly-trap — a fact not noticed by many botanists who have described this plant. It entraps large numbers of flies, bees, and other small insects, who seek the flower to obtain its honeyed juice. The insect, upon entering the flower, thrusts its proboscis down to the bottom of the cup, thereby exciting its wonderful irritability, when instantly the stamens close upon the stigma, like the jaws of a trap, seizing the poor insect by its tongue. It is not uncommon to see the flowers of this plant, under cultivation, crowded with insects thus caught. This irritable or sensitive power is possessed in a high degree in Venus's Fly-Trap, found in North Carolina, and in a less degree in the flowers of the Barberry, and some other plants.

By taking up, in the autumn, the *Saracenia*, or Side-Saddle Flower, with the wet moss attached to its roots, put into water, and cultivated like the hyacinth, and placed on a parlor window, it will flourish, and show its curious flowers towards spring.

In closing this article upon the cultivation of native herbaceous plants, we would mention several distinguished for their beauty, which as yet we have wholly failed to cultivate. The names of some of these plants are the *Cypripedum*, or Ladies' Slipper, Fringed Gentian, Oak-leaved Gerardia, Northern Calla, and Northern Dracena.

S. P. FOWLER.

Danvers New Mills, *Dec.* 13, 1849.

For the New England Farmer.

SHELLY-MARL, OR MUSCLE BED.

Mr. Editor: It must be gratifying to many of our farmers and cultivators of the soil, residing near

the line of the Essex railroad, to learn that the directors have in contemplation an arrangement by which they can transport, to different points upon this route, the above excellent manure for the land. I say excellent, for it is well known that the soil in this, as well as in many other counties in the state, is deficient in calcareous matter; and, as was recently said by a distinguished agriculturist, that "no soil can be regarded as at all *well* fitted for cultivation, unless it be calcareous," this article must, therefore, be among the best that can be applied to improve its texture and composition, by making it more capable of supplying the food necessary for the production of vegetables. The use of this compound, upon a poor or light sandy loam, will produce a more lasting degree of fertility than dung *alone*.

Its effect upon the soil, in the first year of its application, is inconsiderable in comparison with the second and succeeding years. After an application of one and a half cords of muscle marl to about one eighth of an acre of sandy loam, (by placing it in small heaps upon the land in the fall, and spreading it over the land early in the following spring,) we planted potatoes; the crop, as well as the size of the vegetable, was small. The spring following, it was again planted to potatoes, without dressing of any kind, and the crop was good, and the potatoes of a large size. This failure at first, we admit, may have been owing, in *some* degree, to the season; but not to such an extent. We have, from the Beverly Bar to Ornes and Ropes's Points and Porter's River, so called, in North Salem, muscle beds, where are large deposits of this fertilizing manure, which increases in forming, as is supposed, nearly as fast as it has heretofore been gathered; and if it can be transported, at a reasonable rate, from these several places, on this railroad, it must be a great benefit to the farmer.

It is *comparatively* recent that our cultivators have turned their attention to the use of this material, and thus far it has been generally, or almost exclusively, used in the cultivation of onions, and considered to be a fine manure for this vegetable alone; but we feel assured that it will be found, by a proper application, quite as useful in nearly, if not all, purposes where *shell*-lime and marl operate beneficially; and, as before remarked, that, our soil being deficient in calcareous matter, it cannot but be exceedingly useful. Shell-lime is now used with astonishing effect by Mr. Pell, of New York state, by which that finest of all American apples, the Newton Pippin, is made to produce annually great crops of the finest fruit.

The muscle beds in the North and Porter's Rivers are formed by the decomposition of a small shell-fish and sea-weed, rock-weed, and other substances which gather in large quantities in the *eddies* of the above rivers, thus making an exceedingly fertilizing compound. The muscle is very prolific, millions being formed in a square rod in a single year. As their surface is immediately covered by the young the succeeding year, the growth of the "beds," as they are called, is astonishingly rapid, upwards of one thousand cords being annually taken from the deposits in the vicinity of the railroad. Notwithstanding this quantity has been gathered, there does not appear to be a very sensible diminution of the article.

The beneficial effects of this manure are more marked when applied to land at a distance from the salt water. This manure is sometimes gathered and used immediately, in what is called its raw state; the generality of cultivators, however, prefer to place it upon their land in small heaps, in the fall, to be acted on by frost, when it slackens and becomes better pulverized in the spring, to spread evenly over the land. We prefer, in order to preserve the saline juices, which are useful on almost every description of soils, to apply muscle marl fresh from the shore, while we have frosty nights, early in March, spreading it at once; and, in a week or two, (after it is meliorated by freezing,) ploughing it under the soil. Muscle-bed and common barn-yard manure make an excellent compost for Indian corn. A correspondent of the Yankee Farmer, in speaking of "sea manure," says, "When sea mud is thickly blended with sea-shells, they tend to give it much additional value; as the shells, when exposed to atmospheric influence, will have their cohesion and organization gradually destroyed — chemical composition ensues, carbonic gas is disengaged, and this gas comes in contact with the vegetable fibre, where it is distributed through all its ramifications. To improve the soil is to give it the principles which it requires, and does not contain. Marine dressing not only imparts to its principles, but animates inert matter into action; or, to define it more chemically, the elements of inert matter are resolved into new combination. In these remarks, I have made no deductions from supposition, but have drawn conclusions from known facts, supported by chemical affinity. I will only observe that I have used the above-named dressing for more than twenty years, and it has fully answered my expectations." Another writes, "Nature, to supply a deficiency in the soil and climate on our rugged seaboard, has, with a liberal hand, deposited inexhaustible magazines of marine manure all along our shores, which is composed of *animal, calcareous, saline, argillaceous,* and *vegetable matter;* the calcareous, of the shells; the saline, of the salt of the ocean; the argillaceous, of the fine mould washed from the surrounding clay banks; and the vegetable, of eel-grass, rock-weed, kali, and other marine vegetable productions brought in from the ocean by flood-tides and easterly winds."

In speaking of a rich muscle bed, he says, "The population and territory of aquatic community have unquestionably been progressively increasing from its origin; for small animals, by a law of nature, are generally prolific, and prolific animals, by the same wise law, are confined to a very brief existence; therefore numerous deaths have enlarged this territory, and numerous births, exceeding the deaths, have increased the population. The same contracted inch of space is the birthplace, residence through life, and at death the grave, of each individual." "By an ordinance of the British Parliament, passed about A. D. 1680, for the exclusive benefit of the New England colonies, all flats fronting upland, in public grants, became the property of the grantees, although not expressed in the instrument of conveyance, extending to the channel, or one hundred rods below high-water mark; and in all subsequent conveyances, when bounded by the shore. The shore, as legally defined, is the margin of the water at any time of tide. This ordinance and definition remain in full force, having been invariably recognized and sanctioned by all our courts."

Another material, somewhat different in its character, (and which is used extensively in Europe,) is sea-sand, mixed with a large proportion of shell. This mixture is considered an excellent fertilizer for grass and grain crops on low land. It is found in inexhaustible quantities in the North River, in near proximity to the railroad.

Lord Bacon, who flourished early in the seventeenth century, having noticed the advantages which the farmers in the maritime countries of Europe derived from the free use of sea-sand, which, upon those coasts, chiefly consists of broken shells, impregnated with salt water, declares that the "best manure, next to marl, is sea-sand;" and the Archbishop of Dublin, speaking of the manuring of lands, in the counties of Londonderry and Donegal, with sand and shells from the sea-shore, says, "that what formerly was not worth a groat per acre, is now worth four shillings."

"This substance is very generally used in Cornwall,

England, for manure; and the quantity which is every season carried away from different parts of the coast, for the purpose of manure, almost exceeds belief."

From "Bude," in the parish of Stratton, it has been ascertained that in one day as many as four thousand horse-loads have been taken; and from the harbor of Padstow, it has been computed that fifty-four thousand cart-loads are annually carried. Martin Doyle says, "I have known this manure in the county of Cork to be carried in bags ten or fifteen, ay, twenty miles from the coast, on the backs of mules." The expense of land carriage for this material as a manure, in Cornwall *alone*, (as stated by Dr. Paris,) amounts at least to thirty thousand pounds *annually*. Mr. Colman, in his European Agriculture, speaking of the immense quantities taken up on the coast of Ireland, says, "The number of one-horse carts, especially near Cork, which I found engaged in the transportation of it, was remarkable. To the large proportion of phosphate of lime contained in the crustaceous remains, and the nitrogenized matter of the fish, much of its importance, doubtless, is due. In Cornwall, England, vast amounts are found near the sea-shore, and carried into the country. In examining this sand, which is obtained in inexhaustible quantities near parts of the coast, it appeared in an extraordinary degree to abound in broken shells. — A company has been formed for calcining this sand, which serves to make it more soluble, and renders its action upon the soil more speedy. It is called the '*Cornwall Patent Manure.*' These sands (continues Mr. Colman) are full of comminuted shells, and very rich in animal matter. They are applied at the rate of ninety bushels, or even double that quantity of bushels, to the acre."

J. M. IVES.

SALEM, *Jan.* 1, 1850.

For the New England Farmer.

HISTORY OF AGRICULTURE. NO. III.

MR. EDITOR: Agriculture engaged the attention of the Romans, theoretically as well as practically. Their time was divided between husbandry and war. In the early days of the republic, their greatest men employed themselves alternately in the one and the other. Cincinnatus was called from the plough to fill the office of dictator.

Among the Romans, the ox was the principal beast of burden; and there are many directions for breeding, working, and feeding this animal, to be found in the writings of Pliny, Cato, and others. Bees were also held in high estimation among the Romans, and directions for their management may be found among the writers above mentioned. With regard to the implements of husbandry used by the Romans, we cannot speak very definitely; but it is certain they used ploughs of some sort, both with mould-boards and colters and without them. Pliny speaks of a reaping machine, that was propelled by an ox. Their grain was beaten out by flails, or trodden by cattle. Haying was performed much in the same manner as at present.

On the decline of the Roman empire, agriculture shared the fate of all other arts, and during the long ages of anarchy and barbarism which succeeded the fall of this empire, agriculture was almost wholly abandoned, and continued to be neglected till the introduction of the feudal system, in the fifteenth century. This gave every man a distinction and rank according to the quantity of land he occupied. Nothing contributed more to give an importance to agricultural pursuits than the introduction of this system, which gave the tenant, that cultivated the soil, as well as the landlord, who owned the land, political privileges that were enjoyed by no other members of the community.

England has, for the last fifty years, done much for the advancement of agriculture; and her efforts have been crowned with success, as her agricultural productions have more than doubled during this period.

The agriculture of the French suffers in common with every other species of industry, from the effects of bad government. Since the revolution, they have made some advancement, but are still far behind Great Britain, notwithstanding they have a climate and soil adapted to every variety of vegetable growth. In all parts of the continent of Europe, increasing attention is being paid to this subject. In Lombardy and Flanders, it is carried to the highest state of improvement.

ROCKINGHAM.

For the New England Farmer.

PROFIT OF HENS.

MR. EDITOR: I have kept, since January last, about forty hens. They have had their full liberty over my premises, from day to day; and though, at times, they have been rather inclined to mischief, yet, upon the whole, I am very well satisfied with their product, since they began to lay, which was about the middle of February; and, though I have lost seven of them by disease and accident, they have produced up to this time about four thousand eggs, and raised me about sixty chickens — being an average of over one hundred eggs per hen, besides raising the chickens.

The eggs which I have sold amount to nearly $45, at fourteen cents per dozen, the average price for the time in our market; and the chickens are worth, on an average, twenty-five cents each, which is $15. Total product, to this time, $60. They have been fed but very little grain, since the opening of spring; but have picked and scratched for a living about the farm. I have kept a good heap of pounded oyster shells in their walks, of which they daily avail themselves — frequently several times in a day. A part of my hens, during the warm weather, have roosted on the trees, near the house; part of them in an open shed; and a part of them in the barn. I have no hen or "poultry house," as they are called, nor any thing of the kind. Now, what I wish to know is this: How should I manage with my hens, in order to have them *continue* laying through the cold season? as I have observed that, as hens are generally managed in this part of the country, they lay but very few eggs from the first of December to the middle of February, or later. I should like to know how my hens should be fed, where I should make them roost, and also what quantity of eggs hens, that are well taken care of, will produce, compared with warm weather. I should wish to have the directions in a plain, familiar style, and in as economical a form as will answer the purpose intended.

Yours, &c.,

C. B. AYER.

PRESTON, *Conn.*, *Nov.* 24, 1849.

THE LATE REV. HENRY COLMAN.

To the Editor and Publisher of the New England Farmer.

GENTLEMEN: Holding the responsible position of sentinels on the environs of agriculture in NEW ENGLAND, as you do, I venture to ask your attention to the enclosed notice of one who spent the latter part of his life in laboring to advance the cause in which we all feel a common interest. The trustees of the Essex Society felt it to be their duty distinctly to take notice of the services of MR. COLMAN. When a man generously offers his life for the good of others, it is right that his name and memory should have the

credit of what he did. The confidence that noble action will be duly appreciated by those who come after us, is one of the strongest incentives to noble efforts.

My particular purpose, in taking pen in hand, was to inform you that I have just now received the entire agricultural library of the late Mr. Colman, purchased at a cost of $250, to form the basis of an agricultural library, for the use of the Essex County Society. It is confidently believed, that a subscription adequate to the purchase will readily be obtained. But if it should not, it may be doubted whether one half of one year's income of existing funds could be better applied, than in the purchase of four hundred volumes of the best books on agriculture.

I know there are some who say, those who want to read had better buy their own books; — and if they conveniently could, perhaps they had. But is it not true, that there are hundreds who do not now read a volume in a year, who would read many, if they could have access to a library, judiciously selected and freely offered?

The fear of violating my own rule, in multiplying words without ideas, forbids my saying more. If what I write, or what is enclosed, is worthy your notice, it is at your service.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

Nov. 20, 1849. J. W. P.

The committee appointed at the late meeting of the Society, to report to the trustees such action as is proper to be taken in relation to the Rev. Henry Colman, who died at Islington, near London, August 11, 1849, æt. 64, submit the following preamble and resolutions. J. W. Proctor, *Chairman.*

Nov. 19, 1849.

The journals of our own and foreign lands have recently recorded the death of Rev. Henry Colman, and borne ample testimony to his eminent private worth and public usefulness.

The church, at whose altars he ministered with distinguished ability, has already rendered a beautiful tribute to his memory.

The homes of affluence and ease, of penury and suffering, — in all of which his presence was greeted with equal cordiality, imparting to the one additional delight by his agreeable vivacity and intelligence; diffusing, in the other, unwonted joy by his sympathy and charities — are now saddened with grief.

A distinct expression of the deep sense of bereavement sustained by this Society, with whom he had so long been connected as associate and trustee, should be placed upon our records. The vivid impressions on our minds should be preserved for the benefit of those who may come after us. Services so valuable should not be forgotten. A character like his should be registered for imitation. The possession of his virtues would brighten and bless every farmer's life, and gladden every farmer's home. He was, in truth, one of whom it may justly be said, "We shall not look upon his like again." With a childlike simplicity of character, that adapted itself to every circle, and to all occasions, he was every where at home, and always, in whatever company he might be, the centre of attraction. He was never at ease, except when actively engaged in doing good. Few men have accomplished so much in a life of the same length; and what he effected causes a deeper regret, that he could not have been spared to complete what he had contemplated.

Mr. Colman was always an ardent lover of Nature, and accustomed to find recreation and delight in the study of her works. In the various branches of agriculture and horticulture, he ever manifested a special interest. His aid was freely given, and not without marked results, to every effort to encourage the study and to improve the practice of these arts. Immediately on coming into this county, he became a member of this Society, and has been distinguished as one of its most active supporters. The farmers of Essex imperfectly know the obligations they are under for the many services freely and voluntarily rendered for their benefit. The pages of our Transactions bear testimony to the zeal and ability with which he accomplished whatever he undertook. Whoever shall glance his eye over these, for the ten years next following 1830, will find more than *two hundred* from his pen, covering the entire field of the farmer's labor, and marked by a keenness of perception and felicity of expression rarely found in such productions. The same sparkling brilliancy which beamed from his eye, radiated from all his paragraphs. His inimitable humor never failed to arrest and enchain the attention of the reader. However repulsive the subject, he had the faculty so to present it as to avoid offence, without the least sacrifice of truth. No subject was too abstruse for his philosophic reflection — none too minute for his searching observation. It is not too much to say, that to him are we indebted, as much as to any other, while he was among us, for interesting and instructive communications. When a commissioner for the commonwealth was to be appointed, his ardor in the pursuit of agricultural science marked him as the fit agent to accomplish the desire of the state. In discharging the duties of this office, he became favorably and extensively known. The fruits of his labors are plainly to be seen in the improved methods of farming, and in the increased interest and respect with which the pursuit of the farmer is regarded. He inspired many with fresh courage and hope, who were disheartened by repeated failures, or discouraged with little success. He awakened a generous emulation, which brought into active operation a great amount of dormant energy, and replaced, by industry and skill, what, in many cases, had been lost through sloth or ignorance. If there are any who were inclined to question the utility of this commission, there are probably few who could match the industry and perseverance with which its duties were discharged. If there are any who are disposed to cavil at the accuracy of Mr. Colman's facts and opinions, there are probably none who will deny the salutary impulse he gave to agricultural improvements.

In the autumn of 1842, Mr. Colman embarked for Europe, intending to make such a survey of the industrial and agricultural pursuits of other lands, as would not only gratify his own long-cherished desires, but would enable him to present to his countrymen examples worthy of imitation. Upon his arrival in England, he became the object of attention and respect, such as had rarely been shown to any private citizen. The privilege of familiar intercourse with the highest classes of society was freely accorded to him, securing, at once, the most refined social and intellectual enjoyments. The field now open before him, expanded beyond his utmost expectation; and though it offered much to encourage and gratify, yet, to explore it fully, and to reap its fruits, demanded the most exhausting labor. All the energies of body and mind were put in constant requisition. Nor should it be forgotten, how the finer sympathies of the heart, always active, were intensely excited by the examples of suffering and misery constantly presented to his view.

After six years' absence, Mr. Colman returned in the autumn of 1848; but his health was so impaired, that he was compelled to relinquish many of the plans that he had contemplated. His ever active benevolence prompted him to many efforts, which his failing strength could no longer sustain. At the unanimous request of this board, he readily assented to deliver the address at our late anniversary, (if life and health permitted — a condition, added by him,

with that devout reference to the overruling Providence which characterized every movement of his life;) and the hope was fondly indulged by all, of being again enlivened by his wit, and instructed by his wisdom. But our hope was to be disappointed; and death has now sealed that disappointment forever.

To his examples and instruction are we greatly indebted for what we have been able to accomplish. He was ever ready to hold or drive, as opportunity presented. His willingness to help awakened a corresponding zeal to help ourselves. He not only sustained us in youth, when our FATHER was called away, but he inspired us with strength and confidence to go alone. Now, having arrived at years of discretion, shall we be unmindful of the guide of our youth? Shall we not prove, by our works, that the good seed he planted has taken root, is springing up, and ready to flourish?

We would that our own minds should be impressed with the great lesson of our lamented friend's life and death — a life of preëminent usefulness — a death of calm submission and enduring hope. We would commend his example to all whom our pages may reach, and especially to the farmers of our own county, in the belief that by copying his virtues, they will best honor his memory and promote their own usefulness.

It grieves us to reflect that we shall see his face no more forever. It pains us to remember that his bones are mouldering in a land far away, "by strangers honored and by strangers mourned." With grateful acknowledgments to the kindness that watched and soothed his dying bed, and closed his "dim eye on life and pain," and to the noble generosity that solicited the privilege to rear a monument over his mortal remains, we would respectfully suggest to the farmers of our own commonwealth, whose citizen he was, by birth in her metropolis, and by adoption in all her borders, that a monument be reared in their midst, which, with a generosity as noble, and a grief no less sincere, shall point to the world the name and the memory of the FARMER'S FRIEND.

At the annual meeting of the Essex Agricultural Society, held September 27, 1849, a committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. John W. Proctor, of Danvers, Frederick Howes, of Salem, Ebenezer Moseley, of Newburyport, James H. Duncan, of Haverhill, Daniel Adams, of Newbury, to consider and report, at the next meeting of the trustees, such measures as should appear to them most suitable to express the sense of this Society, for the memory of the late Rev. Henry Colman.

At a meeting of the trustees, held November 19, 1849, the committee reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

[*See preamble, as above.*]

Resolved, That we cherish, with great regard, the memory of the late Henry Colman, who, during many years, and until his decease, was a member of this Society, and distinguished for his zeal, activity, and intelligence in the cause of agricultural improvements; for his various and persevering efforts to obtain and communicate information concerning the practice and present condition of agriculture, in other states of the Union, and in foreign countries, as well as our own commonwealth; and for his numerous and valuable publications, tending to promote and diffuse among his fellow-citizens the knowledge of this most important department of human industry.

Resolved, That we sincerely sympathize with the family of the deceased, in the painful bereavement they have sustained.

ALLEN W. DODGE, *Secretary.*

HAMILTON, *Nov.* 26, 1849.

WIRE FENCE.

One of your correspondents makes some inquiries in relation to wire fence, its cost, &c.

WIRE. — The wire can be obtained in Pittsburg at $8.50 per hundred, and perhaps a shade lower if taken by the ton. Townsend & Co. have it constantly on hand. No. 11 is the size usually employed for the purpose of fencing; but some prefer No. 10, on account of its being somewhat stronger and stiffer. Either size answers the purpose very well. It can also be obtained annealed and painted; but in this form it comes a little higher. Allowing five strands, the cost of the wire would be from thirty-five to thirty-seven cents per rod.

POSTS. — The proper size for the posts is three inches by four at the larger end, and three by two and a half the smaller. They should be made of locust, or some other durable wood. The posts do very well thirty-six feet apart, if the fence is designed to turn cattle and horses only; but for hogs they must be set much closer. Between the posts, twelve feet apart, should be placed strips of boards, an inch and a half by three quarters of an inch thick, to support the wires, and keep them from laying. These strips are placed one on each side of the fence, places being made in one of them for the wires to lie in, and nailed together. The wires are fastened to the posts with steeples made of strong wire, and these are driven so tightly that the strands are prevented from slipping, or, in fact, moving in any way.

To make a fence to turn all kinds of beasts, the posts should be placed eighteen feet apart, with a short post, eighteen inches above ground, between each of the long ones. Two boards, each six inches in width, may be put on the bottom, and the top of the fence finished out with wire. This makes an excellent, permanent fence, that will do good service to the farmer. The former kind will answer all purposes where a close fence is not required; but the latter is to be preferred where it is exposed to hogs and other small animals.

ELIZABETH, ALLEGHANY Co., *Pa.*, 1849.

— *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.*

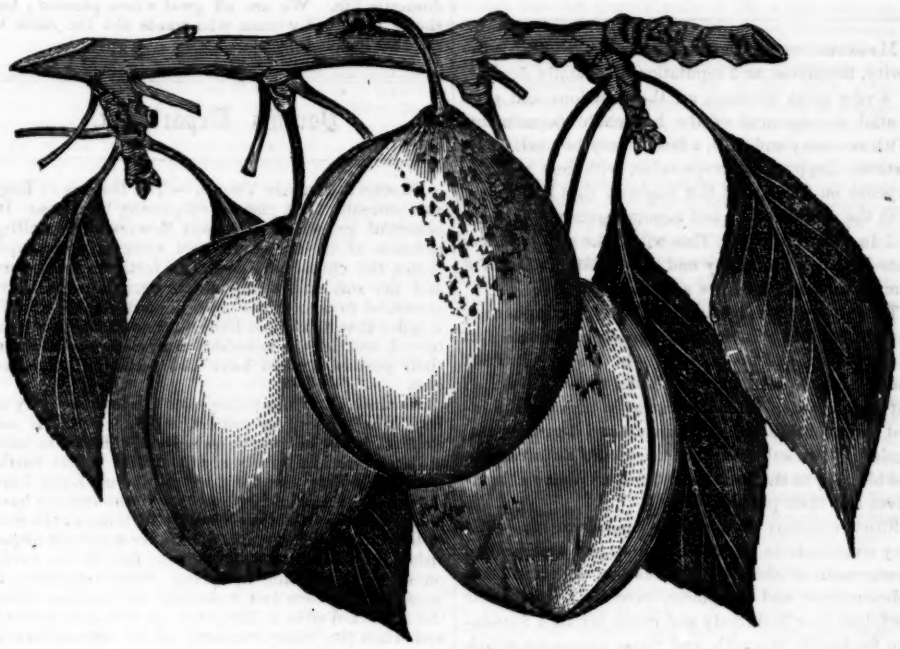
WOOD-HOUSES.

There is no convenience attached to a farm establishment of more importance than the wood-house. It need not be an expensive structure; although both convenience and economy require that its size, and the materials of which it is formed, should be adapted to the size and circumstances of the family. As a general thing, it should be a *wood-house*, and nothing less nor more. No tools or farming implements should be housed there, for these require a separate place; nor should the hog have his quarters in one end. The fuel required for the use of the family, of whatever kind or description, should always be found here in ample abundance, and at no time should there be a deficiency either as regards the quantity or quality of the same. Dry wood, where coal is not used, should be kept constantly on hand the year round; and in order to secure this convenience, a wood-shed of ample dimensions is utterly indispensable. B.

BENSALEM, *Nov.* 7, 1849.

— *Germantown Telegraph.*

The first plank road in New Jersey is about to be commenced at Newark. It is to run from that place to Jersey city.



COE'S GOLDEN DROP PLUM.

This plum is distinguished for its large size and superior flavor. When it is well ripened, it is of the highest quality. But in this climate, it is rather uncertain about coming to perfection, as it is a very late plum; yet in warm locations and favorable seasons, it succeeds well. Some cultivators, whose situations are not more favorable than usual, say that it always does well with them. Therefore the point as to its adaptedness to this climate is not yet well settled. We should not advise its culture north of this, excepting in warm locations, as there are other late plums more to be depended on. Even in this climate, it is better adapted to the amateur than to the cultivator who raises fruit, in orchard culture, for the market.

As this fruit has not been tried extensively in New England, more extensive trials may give a different view of the subject. One great advantage in this plum is its long keeping. It hangs long on the tree, and sometimes it keeps a month or two after it is gathered. This variety was raised from seed by a Mr. Coe, near London. In this region, it generally ripens from the middle of September into October. Mr. Henry Vandine, of Cambridgeport, who has raised fine specimens of this fruit, has exhibited it at the shows of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society five weeks in succession. We are indebted to Andrew Lackey, Jr., of Marblehead, for fine specimens which he furnished last fall, from which our engraving is made.

The fruit is very large; oval, tapering considerably to the ends, a distinct suture on one side; yellow, mottled with green, and occasionally patches of scarlet in the sun, covered with light bloom; stem of medial length, rather slender; flesh yellow, firm, fine texture, melting, rich, sugary, and of a delicious, sprightly flavor; clingstone.

The tree is a good grower; but as it branches low, it does not form a good handsome tree in the nursery, like vigorous upright growers. The shoots are purple, short-jointed; the leaves rather small, deep green, and very glossy. It is a good bearer.

PLOUGHING THE PLAIN LANDS OF LONG ISLAND.

Dr. Peck states, that with the Worcester Eagle D plough, with three yoke of cattle attached, he has succeeded in ploughing these lands well, immediately after the wood was cut off, and without the previous operation of grubbing. This he has done at an expense of $3 per acre, while the old grubbing process alone would have cost from $12 to $16 per acre. The trees and bushes cut off previous to ploughing, stood very thick on the land; and their roots, when he put the plough in, were not only of ordinary size, but green and tough. Many farmers came from his immediate neighborhood to see his ploughing, having little faith in removing scrub-oak and pine stumps and roots in this summary way. We have only to add, that the manufacturers of these ploughs are now at work on a model, which will be decidedly more efficient than the one used by Dr. Peck. As soon as some are finished, they will be sent to our warehouse, where we shall be glad to have the Long Island farmers, and others interested in such matters, call and look at them. — *American Agriculturist.*

Domestic Department.

Management of Domestic Affairs. — The prosperity, happiness, and reputation of a family depend, in a very great measure, on the judicious and prudential management of the household department. With economy and skill, a family may be made comfortable, happy, and respectable, with one half the expense on the part of the husband that is required with the extravagance and mismanagement that prevail in some families. This will make all the difference between prosperity and the accumulation of a competency, and a failure and want.

This shows the importance of woman's influence; and she has not this influence merely on the comfort of the family, and its prosperity in the acquirement and saving of property, so essential to its well being, but her influence is equally great in training the infant and youthful mind to virtue and learning, and rendering the subjects under her care an ornament and blessing to the community, and a credit to themselves and their parents.

Strict economy and skilful management, while they contribute to the acquirement, preparation, and arrangement of those possessions that are essential to independence and happiness, exercise a wholesome discipline over both body and mind, laying a foundation for health, strength, and those principles which insure present comfort and satisfaction, and a well-founded hope for future prosperity.

No woman should think of taking charge of a family without being well versed in her profession, so as to act upon the best principles, and practise in a skilful manner. Science and skill are as important in the kitchen as on the farm, and the one is no more disreputable, difficult, or unpleasant to a woman, than the other is to a man.

Every person should endeavor to excel in his or her avocation, and consider nothing, however minute, as unworthy of attention. No person, who is not skilled in domestic affairs, should ever have a family subjected to her mismanagement or neglect. Labor is the necessary lot of all animal beings throughout creation, and it is essential to health and happiness. Then how important that it be directed by intelligence and skill, which are absolutely requisite to success!

To bake Apples. — Take sour apples, those of a keen acid, and to every square tin filled with them, pour over a tea-cup full of water, and one tea-cup full of sugar. Bake them slowly till done. Eat them with cream and the juice which cooks from them. Nobody knows much of baked apples who has not eaten them in this way. No quince, pear, peach, or plum preserves are equal to this simple dessert.

Dancing. — "I am now an old fellow," says Cowper, in one of his letters, "but I had once my dancing days, as you have now; yet I could never find that I could learn half so much of a woman's real character by dancing with her, as conversing with her at home, when I could observe her behavior at table, or at the fireside, and in all trying scenes of domestic life. We are all good when pleased; but she is the good woman who wants not the *fiddle* to sweeten her."

Youth's Department.

Thoughts for the Young. — The Garden of Eden was undoubtedly a place of surpassing loveliness. Its beautiful groves, its fragrant flowers, the melting richness of its fruits, its cool streams and limpid rivers, the choral strains of its feathered songsters, and the soft and balmy atmosphere, must all have conspired to render it a most delightful abode. We wonder that Adam and Eve could not have been contented, and let the forbidden fruit alone, so that we, their posterity, could have had access to the garden also.

But instead of mourning over the loss, we may as well look around us, and see whether there is not something yet left worth possessing. There is, after all, much that is lovely and beautiful in the earth, notwithstanding the dazzling glories of Eden have departed. The glowing beauties of the maiden have faded, but traces of that beauty still beam in the face of the matron. That man must have a morbid disposition, who can look out upon the face of the earth, on a bright morning in spring, when vegetation is bursting its fetters and unfolding its beauties, when the feathered tribe is filling the air with rich melody, and when the balmy fragrance of the atmosphere is courting into life the buds and blossoms of a thousand different plants, and discover no beauty, no loveliness. The mind endued with a right spirit will perceive much to admire, and will look through all these clustering beauties of nature up to nature's God, and discover his handiwork in the development of life, and all the various arrangements for the growth and maturity of the vegetable and animal world.

It is interesting to notice the perfect system and order that nature exhibits in all her works. She seems like a chemist in a vast laboratory, nicely weighing and measuring out various simple elements, and compounding them in such exact proportions, as to produce the most beautiful experiments in countless numbers. Man can only faintly imitate her, and wholly fails in the ability to give the life-inspiring principle, which fills the earth with joy and gladness.

How mysterious is the agency of light; at first serving to keep the vital principle dormant, but when it has once burst into activity, becoming so essential to the growth and beauty of the plant! The power and goodness of God are magnificently displayed in this element. As we look out on the landscape, lighted up by the glorious orb of day, and relieved by the various shades of verdure; as the eye wanders over hill and valley, mountain and plain, streamlet and lake, or as we gaze with admiration on the blue vault above — the summer clouds, or the stupendous arch of varied light which so frequently spans the heavens as the rainbow — how can we refrain from bowing down with grateful adoration before the Being who has, by the creation of this one simple element, contributed so wonderfully to the happiness of his creatures, and saved them from the horror of groping in perpetual darkness! And how excellently does the divine goodness and wisdom shine out, in constituting this light, of seven different colors, as it is exhibited in the rainbow, or separated by a prism. Different objects absorbing different rays, and reflecting others, produce an endless diversity of shades, and we are charmed with the varied and gorgeous hues of creation. — *Vermont Agriculturist.*

Health Department.

To keep the Feet warm. — "Being told by an experienced bush farmer of the effectual method he used to keep his feet warm on the coldest days in the winter, I have tried it with success; and I think the same means have the most beneficial effect in complaints of the bowels, when *resorted to on the first approach of pain*, and, what is of the greatest importance, the remedy is always at hand, and may be applied instantaneously, either up, or in bed, or in the dark. In short, it is obtaining heat in the feet by friction. The farmer's mode: 'I,' said he, 'stand upon one foot on a log, and throw out my other as far as I can, and in drawing it back I let the bottom of my foot strike the log upon which I stand. Thus I continue, swinging it off and on speedily as far as I can reach, and striking the log on every return with the fore part of the bottom of my foot, till it feels quite hot; this will be done in general with eight or ten swings and strokes. Having thus warmed one foot, I proceed in the same way to warm the other.' Now, sir, experience has taught me, that the same effect will be produced, (viz., heat in the feet obtained,) by swinging out the leg and thigh, and striking the foot in the manner described upon any hard substance, when a person is up; and when in bed, upon being attacked suddenly by pain in the bowels, I have found *immediate relief* by subjecting the bottoms of my feet to friction, rubbing them up and down alternately upon the clothes, thus obtaining extraordinary heat in them. I am fully persuaded that, in the summer of 1832, when the cholera was raging, I was saved of an attack thereof by this simple means, being on a journey, in bed, at a tavern." — *Selected.*

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

Nature of Labor.

For the New England Farmer.

Thoughts on Mechanics. — I am a mechanic; but consider it no cause for pride or mortification. My own choice, partly modified by circumstances, made me one; and so I shall probably continue, till I can better my condition. Hence it cannot be entertained that I am an enemy to the working classes, that I flatter them for favors, or despise them through pride. It is much the fashion, at the present age, for men coveting power and popularity — men who secretly fancy themselves above manual labor, and who in fact despise the laborer and his employment — to expatiate eloquently on the dignity of toil; to sit in their closets and invent schemes for the elevation of the hard-working poor; and to make speeches at their gatherings, and encourage them in their "strikes." And it is remarkable how many simple mechanics, who fancy that all change is reform, are caught in their nets. Is there not intelligence enough among the mechanics to manage and improve their own affairs? If the clergymen, lawyers, and doctors should strike for greater pay, and should meet in solemn assembly to consider their present and prospective condition, is it to be supposed that they would listen to the speeches and theories of mechanics?

But I propose a word to my fellow-laborers. That mechanics have grievances to contend with — such as inadequate labor, insufficient pay, humble social position, &c. — is not denied. That this is true is partly their own fault, partly that of their employers, and still further incident to the unavoidable mutations in the march of civilization. If most of these evils were not a standing complaint among all classes, there would be more hope of a speedy reform. What are they but the general evils of life, which must be encountered by individual intelligence, temperance, virtue, industry, economy, &c.? No "strikes," "mass meetings," and conventional decisions will prove a remedy for them, for it lies in a great measure in the individual sufferers. Some of Franklin's old maxims, such as, "What maintains one vice would bring up two children;" "Spend one penny less than thy clear gains;" "At the workingman's house hunger looks in, but does not enter;" — these common-sense sayings will weigh down a thousand "Resolutions" passed for the special benefit of laborers, with a score of new "Theories" thrown in.

Insufficient pay among mechanics is a standing complaint. There may be at times cause for it. Clerks make the same complaint; so do the members of the learned professions. In fact, there is not a calling exempt from it. Each vocation thinks all others better paid than its own — which shows the bias of partiality. But are not all of us as well paid, if not better, than our fathers were? and are not many of the necessaries of life cheaper than they were fifty years ago? Besides, how can the price of labor be regulated for any length of time? Labor, like a commodity in market, will bring what it is worth at the time; and its worth is regulated by the kind, (or quality,) the supply and demand. Hence good, steady, and active workmen will procure higher wages than those of an opposite character; and it is just they should. If a certain price is given for making an article, (a coat, for instance,) the man who can be *relied upon* to make it, not only well, but promptly, will receive the better wages and more steady employment.

Intemperance has had a more baneful influence upon mechanics than upon any other class — if, indeed, it will admit of any comparison. Numerous instances have come under the writer's observation, where competent workmen have suddenly disappeared for a few days, or a week, in the midst of a busy time, and return with excuses of sickness, or of being unexpectedly called away — when in fact they have been on a pilgrimage to Bacchus, and spent their last dollar, perhaps cent. In a short time the mission is repeated; the employers ascertain the cause of absence, and discharge them for more steady workmen. Their reputations being hurt, to procure employment they are obliged to come down in prices. The consequence is, they get some employment: but continuing to spend for that vice enough to "bring up two children," their families necessarily suffer. Added to this vice is very frequently laziness, or extravagance; sometimes the latter may exist without much of the former. Men in these desperate circumstances are always ready for a "strike," when some bold spirit, with more influence than themselves, presents himself as a leader. The consequence is, a temporary noise and bluster, and all settles down into the quiet old shape — the most competent and industrious receiving the greatest wages, who flourish and frequently rise to the means of competence upon it, while those discontented spirits, who are continually exciting rebellion against their employers, and forgetting that a trade, to be good for any thing, must be constantly worked, continue in poverty, repining at their lot, till the day of their death.

Mechanics frequently complain that they cannot rise in the world. If the complaint is well founded, may not others make it? No man can rise without the necessary virtues; and is not, generally speaking, the mechanic's lot (in his own vocation) as good as the merchant's or professional man's? If the former frequently fails, does not also the latter? Mechanics ought not to expect to rise to eminence as statesmen, any more than lawyers expect to be famous as

mechanics or artists. Each class should expect to rise only in its own calling. The names of our statesmen, divines, physicians, and merchants echo from the old world with no more distinctness than those of our artists and mechanics — particularly our sculptors, painters, machinists, and ship-builders. Few men can rise to eminence in any calling; but I think the laboring class, *as such*, (setting aside our Franklins, our Shermans, and our Rittenhouses,) furnishes a generous share. Let the mechanics emulate the talents and virtues of such men, and endeavor to rise — not hastily, by anarchy and confusion, without merit, but rooted upon good principles — gradually to rise, by challenging the sunshine of public favor.

Every man can be engaged in something profitable, without losing scarce a moment; and he who is thus industrious has little time to complain of his position. The industrious man is happy; and "Poor Richard's" maxim, "Flee pleasures, and they'll follow you," is emphatically true. There are but few persons who know what the sweetest pleasures are; they can only be found in the path of duty. If mechanics would generally give more attention to the cultivation of their minds, they would find themselves gradually ascending in the scale of respectability, and would look with less envy upon the rich. Their path would be lit up with the most cheering rays of light, and many an unhappy hour would be redeemed from despondency.

The mechanics of this country ought to be thankful that they were not born the subjects of any European government; for in these, public policy throws many impediments in the way of the laborer which are not met with in this. Wealth there is more the basis of respectability than character. That old unjust system of perpetual entail of real estate, keeps a few, and perhaps unworthy, families rich, and many respectable families poor. Nothing tends so much to the welfare of a nation, and nothing makes so good subjects, as easy access to real estate — to some tangible property. In England, immense numbers of aged parents are thrown upon their children for support, or into the almshouse; and young men, instead of receiving from such parents a little capital, with a fair education, are bound to support them, while hardly able to support themselves, and in due course are compelled to take their places. And thus a ruinous system of government for the masses keeps them (with few exceptions, perhaps) forever poor. Here in this country, the case is different. We have plenty of land, which can be had cheap, in small and desirable quantities. The government is emphatically for the masses; it diffuses intelligence and opens the avenues of power and respectability. But industry and prudence are needed, and these qualities no government can supply.

Many mechanics, as well as merchants, have, I think, a false idea of business. Enterprise, with some, is only a softer name for knavery. The greater number of young men, when they set up in business, repudiate old-fashioned economy, and think it necessary to make a great noise and show. They are full of hope, and verily believe that fortunes are easily made. Hence they live beyond their means; and, finding themselves sinking, hang with desperation upon pride till every resource fails them, and then, not only fall into bankruptcy themselves, but carry more honest men down with them. If reinstated, many again pursue the same course, thinking that a character for enterprise requires it; and down again they come, by continually attempting to jump over their own heads. Others fail from sheer idleness. "He that hath a trade, hath an estate; but then the trade must be worked," says Franklin; and we might add, that the trade must be worked by himself, and that faithfully and diligently. It will not do for a man to stand on his dignity, and simply *oversee* a petty job, as many do; but he ought to keep himself employed till his business is extensive enough to warrant his continual superintendence.

Success in life is difficult to define. If it requires wealth, then few are successful; if an honest competence, then many are. There is no calling so elevated as to be above failure; none so humble as to be beneath ordinary success. That magic word, "Labor," is the true and only philosopher's stone; and blessed are they who believe in its omnipotence. Poverty will always be a public burden; but it does not continually rest upon the same shoulders. By industry and economy, one escapes it; by idleness and extravagance, another takes his place.

Let mechanics beware of visionary communists, socialists, levellers, and the whole buckram phalanx of Utopian reformers, who (in the language of Pope) "quitting sense call imitating God," and apply themselves sedulously to their business, and, in the natural course of God's providence, they have every guaranty of success. L.

Glass Varnish. — The Maine Farmer states that a kind of soluble glass may be made, which, being applied to wood, will render it fire-proof. Take fifteen parts of powdered flint or quartz rock, ten of potash, and one of charcoal. These are melted together, then worked in cold water, then boiled with five parts of water, in which it will dissolve. It may then be applied to wood work or any other substance. As it cools it dries into a transparent varnish or glass, and the substance thus becomes coated in such a way as to render it incombustible. The editor adds, that he has never tried the experiment himself, but that it would not be difficult or expensive to give it a trial.

New Razor. — The London Patent Journal contains an engraving of a *guarded* razor, warranted not to cut the skin in the process of shaving. Mr. Wakely, in the London Lancet, calls it a splendid invention, and affirms that it "can be used by the operator in almost any situation. It can be used in bed, on a railway, or even in a carriage on the common roads. The operation of shaving is effected in an inconceivably short space of time, even by the most timid or nervous.'

DAIRY MANAGEMENT.

This is a subject of great importance to the farmer. In numerous cases, where the cows and their food are equally good, and they are managed with equal skill, and the expense of dairy management is about equal, there is a difference of one half in the value of the products. All this wide difference is owing to skilful dairy management on one side, and negligence and mismanagement on the other. The best butter is sold in this market 100 per cent. higher than the poorest.

We copy, from the Transactions of the Essex Agricultural Society, the report of the committee on dairy products, of which J. W. Proctor, Esq., president of the Society, is chairman. It is a very able and elaborate document, and our farmers will find in it much valuable information. We shall continue the report, and give several statements of the competitors for premiums, with occasional remarks of the committee.

REPORT ON DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The committee on dairy products were gratified to find so many entries, and such fine specimens of butter. The parcels were entered as required, by the numbers only, and were examined without any knowledge of the persons by whom they were made. The several parcels of June butter were first compared with each other, and the several parcels of September butter likewise. After the opinion of the committee was made up, upon the specimens presented, the several statements were examined and compared. Although there was found to be important differences in the quantities produced in different statements, still there was no sufficient reason to vary the awards as made upon the quality. Some of the statements were found to be not in strict conformity with the conditions on which the premiums were offered; but no material variations were noticed in those of the successful claimants. That no injustice may be done to any claimant, the statements will be published as presented, in connection with the report. They have been carefully scrutinized, and such of their characteristics as are worthy of special remark will be particularly noticed; not for the purpose of censuring any one, but in the hope of instructing those who are willing to learn.

The processes of keeping the milk and of making the butter are so nearly alike, that it would seem all of the claimants had been taught in the same school. It is not strange that this should be so, as they knew before whom their lesson was to be recited. Those modes which had been found most successful in years past, would be most likely to be imitated.

It should be remembered that our premiums are offered "*for the best produce on the farm*," and not simply for the best specimens exhibited.

It is expected of the claimants to state distinctly the amount produced in the month of June; and also in the *four months* next following the 20th of May. It is highly important that all the particulars in the management, from the first milking of the cow, to the moulding of the butter for the market, should be carefully noted. If these facts could be presented in a journal form, so that the feed of each week, and the produce of each week, could be distinctly seen and compared, it would be a source of much instruction.

The design of requiring statements for particular periods of time, is, that all statements should have reference to the same period, so that they may with propriety be compared together. If, for instance, one person takes fifty days, from May 20 to July 10, and another fourteen days, from June 10 to June 24, there can be no fair comparison between the two. We can easily conceive of such an arrangement of the pastures, and of the feed of the cows, for a period of *fourteen days*, as would show a very different result from what could be produced in *fifty days*. These facts are adverted to, because some of the statements are made in this manner. We want no forced statements; — we care not how good they may be; but we want them in the ordinary way; we want to see the whole truth, without any artificial appliances. We do not want to meet the *dairy-maid* in the parlor, arrayed in her silks and ruffles; but we want to meet her in the *dairy-room*, with a smiling countenance, clean hands, and a neat apron, ready to show how the cream is daily taken off, and how the butter is daily taken care of.

There are many facts in relation to the making of butter, of great importance, to be distinctly noted. Instance: from some we learn that the quantity of butter is materially influenced by the manner of milking the cows; — by being careful entirely to exhaust the bag at each milking; — *one pint* at the close being said to be of as much value as *four* at the *commencement*.

It is presumed that there is a certain point of time, after the milk has been set, when the cream can be severed from the milk to the best advantage. We have looked through the statements to ascertain when this is. We find them varying from twenty-four to seventy-two hours; about as definite as the size of a *piece of chalk*. What is wanted is, a rule for the guidance of those who shall undertake to manage the business without having had experience. Without doubt, many of these successful butter-makers have the right rule in their minds, but have never yet so defined it as to be able to convey it to others. The probability is, the longer the cream remains, the more there will be of it; but may it not remain so long as to impair the quality of the butter? This may depend much upon the character of the *place where* and the *vessels in which* it is set. Nearly all speak of setting the milk in *tin pans*; — *how deep* it shall be, whether two, four, or six inches, they do not say. All concur in assigning a clean, airy, and cool place for the milk to be set in; and all concur in approving of entire cleanliness in all the departments.

What shall be done with the cream, after it is collected? Some place it in a bucket in the well; others in pots, in vaults constructed for the purpose. The best position we have noticed is, to have a neat apartment excavated below the ordinary cellar, and there to keep it, until the convenient time for churning. This should be as often as a sufficient quantity is accumulated, to be churned to advantage. The kind of churn, and the temperature of the cream at the time of churning, are both to be considered. It is said a temperature from 60° to 65° is the most favorable. If this be so, it should always be brought to this temperature, before the agitation of the cream is commenced. Crowell's thermometer churn is constructed with special reference to this point. It also professes to promote a proper circulation of the air, at the time of churning. Whether this *air movement* is fanciful or real, I leave to wiser chemical heads than my own. The quality, as well as the quantity, of the butter depends much upon the churning process. When dog-days come on, we have frequently heard complaints that the cream was *bewitched*, and the butter would not come; when, in truth, the fault was not in the cream, but in those who managed it.

Many of these little things, which a skilful manager of a dairy is accustomed to observe and practise, and which are thought too trifling to be noticed, may, in fact, constitute the real differences between the making of good and ordinary butter. That such differences do exist, we see exemplified every week. Take, for instance, in any of our towns, two farmers, situate side by side, on lands similar: you will find one of these going into market on Saturday, with butter soft and greasy, with small particles of buttermilk oozing out of it; while the butter of the other is in neatly-formed lumps, hard and regular, of a bright yellow color; the one is slowly sold for *a shilling* a pound, when the other readily commands *a shilling and a half*, from purchasers much better satisfied with their bargains. Why this difference in price, unless it be in the management of the dairy? One of these farmers will be able to thrive and flourish, with painted buildings, and neatly-arranged fences; while the other will have his windows stuffed with rags, and his fences going to ruin.

It is not enough for claimants to say, in their statements, that *about* an ounce of salt is applied to each pound of butter; or that it was salted to suit the taste. Such expressions afford no rule for the instruction of others. Tastes may vary as much as hands in weight, or feet in measurement; and the word *about* has too much of the quality of *india-rubber* to fasten any thing. For example: in the statements before us, there is a variance in the quantity of salt used of *one half* — say from three fourths

of an ounce to one and a half ounces to the pound. We are aware that there may be differences in the quality of the salt, and that the condition in which the butter *comes*, may at some times require more salt than at others, and, consequently, that the judgment of the persons *working it* is to be exercised; but still, we think it is in their power to define how this judgment is to be applied; and this is the very thing we want to be informed about. These little peculiarities which enable good dairy-maids to present the nicest of butter.

On looking over the statements presented, several difficulties occur in instituting a comparison. Some speak of *cows only*; others of *cows and heifers*. Some speak of *old cows*; others of *young cows*. What the fair proportion is which a heifer bears to a cow, we have no certain means of determining; but, for convenience sake, we assume that *three heifers*, the first season in milk, may be reckoned equal to *two cows*. We are also embarrassed by the fact, that different families may consume very different quantities of milk and cream in the family. Ordinarily, we expect to find on a well-regulated New England farm, a man and wife, five children, a man servant, a maid servant, and a boy to drive the cows, &c., — *ten in number*, — for whose use the milk of one cow, at least, should be appropriated. There may be variances from this. There may be *bachelors*, who take care of their own dairies; but such care will never be considered as a recommendation for premium. Although their butter may be *sweet* in the *churn*, ten chances to one it will be *rancid* before it comes to the *table*.

Another embarrassment, and one that should be remedied by the trustees themselves, is in the *variances of time* for which the statements are made. Some we notice from May 20 to July 5; some from June 1 to July 9; some from May 20 to September 25; some for fourteen days only in June — periods that cannot accurately be compared with each other. Such statements not only vary from the rule prescribed, but they present also insuperable difficulties in the way of just estimates. We have been thus particular in enumerating these, that claimants may understand, if they would expect others to judge *rightly* of their claims, they must *begin right* in their statements. It is not enough for them to say, that the offer of the premium is not made exactly as it should be: when they present their claims, they assent to the propriety of the offer.

We present, in a tabular form, an abstract of the several statements, supplying deficiencies by the *best guesses* (exercising our privilege as Yankees) in our power to make.

	Names.	Residence.	Cows.	June Average to a Cow.	Four Months' Average to a Cow.	Total in Four Months.
1	John Stone, Jr.	Marblehead,	4	45 lbs.	155 lbs.	620 lbs.
2	Daniel Putnam,	Danvers,	6	30 "	120 "	720 "
3	Elijah Pope,	Danvers,	4	28 "	111 "	444 "
4	Charles P. Preston,	Danvers,	7	30 "	112 "	784 "
5	George Pearson,	Saugus,	6	30 "	109 "	654 "
6	Nathaniel Felton,	Danvers,	8	32 "	110¼ "	884 "
7	Jonathan Berry,	Middleton,	8	30 "	97½ "	790 "
8	Duncan M'Naughton,	Byfield,	5	25 "	94½ "	490 "
9	John Preston,	Danvers,	4	26 "	91½ "	366 "
10	Nathan D. Hawks,	Lynnfield,	4	25 "	85 "	340 "

This shows an average product of *one pound* to a cow, *daily*, through the month of June, and *seven eighths of a pound, daily*, to a cow, for the four months from May 24 to September 24.

When the extraordinary drought of the months of August and September are taken into view, as also the family consumption of milk before adverted to, it is but fair to say, that the statements presented the present season give evidence of a production of *one pound of butter, daily*, for each cow, for the four best months of the season.

How this will compare with former years, is not distinctly in mind. We remember, when the Society first commenced their offer of premiums, Colonel Jesse Putnam was successful in obtaining the first premium, and that his cows averaged a produce of two hundred pounds each, in a period of six months. This was thought a large product, and was accounted for by the extraordinary feed of the cows; the colonel being a man not accustomed to leave any thing he undertook half finished. We have known some of the present claimants, with whom we have been acquainted *as such* for nearly *thirty years*, to present statements of a produce of eight pounds of butter a week, to each cow, for a number of successive weeks. These were among the best products, in the *natural way*, that we have known. We have often heard of cows that yielded two pounds of butter a day, and more; but we have never known a herd of such cows, or any considerable number together, that would do it, without using a feed for them that would "cost more than it came to." If such can be found, we should consider attention to such a stock one of the best modes of using a farm.

There is so much time misspent, and labor lost, in the making of poor butter, that we feel it to be an imperative duty to endeavor to impress the minds of farmers, and of their wives and daughters, with the importance of giving heed to this subject. There are some things in relation to it so well settled, as to be universally known by all those who have any knowledge in the matter. There are others, on which there remain great differences of opinion and variance of practice; as, for instance, in the statements before us, we find some of the makers of butter apply *cold water* freely to the butter, both before it is taken from the churn and afterwards; "to aid in extracting the buttermilk, and to harden the butter," as they say. Others bring it into form without the use of water, and say that its use impairs the flavor, and essentially injures the quality of the butter. How shall it be determined which of these is right? This is a practical question, applicable to every churning; quite too important, therefore, to be left in doubt. Probably most persons do as their mothers used to do, without inquiry whether there is any better mode of proceeding. In an intelligent article upon this subject, from one of the most successful makers of butter in this county, (see Transactions for 1840, p. 72,) we find this sentence: "More depends on this than any part of the process, in making good butter. If our dairy women would apply double the labor to half the quantity of butter, and thereby thoroughly remove all particles of buttermilk, this one half

would be worth more than the whole, in the condition it is usually sent to the market."*

The churning process is an essential part of the making of butter. At our request, Mr. Felton, who has for several years obtained the first premium on butter, has annexed to his statement an account of his mode of churning. We looked in vain through the several statements, for information on this point. If it be true, as it is said to be, that some kinds of churns will bring the butter in one half the time, with less than half the labor, that others require, this is a fact of great importance in determining the best mode of making butter.

We have heard of many improved churns, but have seen none, the structure and principles of which better correspond with our ideas of utility, than Crowell's Patent Thermometer Churn. We cannot so well express the idea we wish to convey, as in the letter annexed, from a gentleman, himself expert in all the arts of butter-making.†

* I am informed by a lady, who was instructed by her mother, who, for a period the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, had the reputation of making the very best of butter, that she never applied cold water, or any other water, to the butter, after it was churned. She considered such application injurious, especially if the butter was intended to be put down, as she said; that is, to be preserved for future use. That it would not keep so well when soaked in water; was not so fine flavored; and was more likely to become rancid. Perhaps my respect for this lady (who is my mother) influences my opinions; nevertheless, there are hundreds, in Salem and vicinity, who for years used their butter, when they had vigor to work it, who will bear testimony that no more reliable authority could be cited. In a matter of this kind, I should place more confidence in the practical experience of a sensible woman, than in all the chemical analyses of all the Davys and Liebigs combined.

† Dear Sir: I have used the "Thermometer Churn" this season, and have been much pleased with it. It possesses a decided advantage in the spring and autumn, when the cream is generally so cold as to be a long time in forming butter in other churns, as by filling the space between the zinc and the outer side of the churn with hot water, the cream may be easily brought to the proper temperature for churning. In warm weather, however, I do not think much is to be gained by filling this space with cold water, as the cream should be sufficiently cooled before it is put into the churn; and if it is not, it could hardly be done by cold water, in the short time generally occupied in churning. Still, in warm weather, I have found that the Thermometer Churn will bring the butter in much less time than any other I have ever used; and this, I think, may be owing to the form of the slats of the dasher. These have a wide and flat surface, obviously producing more agitation of the cream than the round slats of Galt's churn and of Kendall's churn. On one occasion, I have churned thirty quarts of cream into butter in eleven minutes, in the Thermometer Churn, though it ordinarily takes a longer time, an average at least of half an hour; and a shorter time than this I do not think desirable.

It is claimed for some of the lately invented churns, the Atmospheric Churn, for example, that they will produce butter in four or five minutes; but I think it is very questionable whether, in so short a time, all the butter can be extracted from a given quantity of cream, or the butter can be of the best quality. What, to me, seems the greatest desideratum in churns is, some improvement in the application of the moving power, by which the amount, or rather the severity, of labor may be lessened in churning. As it is now, it is work, and often hard work, too, for an able-bodied man. But if a churn could be made to work so easily that a boy could operate it without fatigue for three or four successive churnings, it is evident that a great gain would be made in the expenditure of labor. "Blessings on the man who invented sleep!" exclaimed the renowned Sancho Panza; and equal blessings have I often been inclined to invoke for the individual who would make churning easy.

Very respectfully, yours,
ALLEN W. DODGE.

HAMILTON, *Oct.* 23, 1849.

Mr. Howard, of the Albany Cultivator, authority second to none other in the country, says, "According to our experience, the best butter is not produced by a very *short* nor a very *long* period in churning. If it is churned too quick, the separation is not complete, and the butter, besides being less rich, is deficient in quantity; if the process is continued too long, the butter is likely to be *oily*. We think our best butter-makers would decide that churning for ordinary quantities, say from ten to twenty pounds, should occupy from *thirty* to *fifty* minutes." This corresponds entirely with the opinion expressed by Mrs. Nathaniel Felton, who said "she did not want the butter to come in less than thirty minutes; it is not so good when it comes in a shorter time."

We are informed, by some of those who have been most successful in the management of their dairies, that they look more to the *quality* of the milk given by the cow, than the *quantity*; and in selecting their cows to be kept for this purpose, they choose only those which give milk adapted to the purpose. It is unquestionably true, that one quart of milk from some cows, will yield as much, or more, butter than two quarts from others. In selecting cows, therefore, the quality of their milk should be tested, either by making butter from it, or by the use of a *lactometer*, which shows the comparative thickness of cream that will rise on similar quantities of milk. Mr. Holbert, an experienced farmer of New York state, says, "I find, by churning the milk separate, that *one of my best cows* will make as much butter as *three* of my poorest cows, giving the same quantity of milk." We have heard the same thing, substantially, from dairy women themselves. Let those cows which abound in *quantity only*, be turned over to those who care only for filling their measures; and let those that afford *substance* as well as *show*, be kept to supply the churn.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

THE AMERICAN FOWL-BREEDER; containing full Information on Breeding, Rearing, Diseases, and Management of Domestic Poultry; also, Instructions concerning Pure Stock, Crossing, Caponizing, &c., &c., with Engravings; by an Association of Practical Breeders. Published by John P. Jewett & Co., Boston.

This cheap work contains a large amount of useful information, embracing valuable contributions from some of the most skilful fowl-breeders and fanciers in the country. It should be in the hands of every one who keeps fowls, or is well situated to attend to this pleasant business or recreation. The mechanical execution of the work is highly creditable. The engravings are by Brown, and in his best style. See advertisement on cover.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST. This sterling work continues to sustain its high reputation. It is devoted to the general agriculture of the whole country. Messrs. Allen, editors, who are well known as able, practical writers. C. M. Saxton, 121 Fulton Street, New York; J. C. Butters, 19 State Street, Boston.

THE FRUITS OF AMERICA. This beautiful and splendid work, by C. M. Hovey, Esq., author of the Magazine of Horticulture, contains richly colored engravings, accompanied with the wood and foliage

of all the choicest fruits cultivated in the United States, from paintings from nature, by W. Sharp, and chromolithed under his direction. The letter-press contains full descriptions of fruits, habit of trees, &c., &c. As a work of accuracy and fine taste, this holds an elevated rank, highly creditable to the author, the artist, and to the country.

Hovey's Magazine of Horticulture. Mr. H. is among the most indefatigable of editors, sparing no pains, either by expensive experiments, or by thorough investigations, to describe and introduce new and valuable productions, and clear the nomenclature of fruits of the great confusion for which it has long been noted, and which is a great difficulty with the fruit grower.

Address of Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, before the Norfolk Agricultural Society. We had the pleasure of listening to this able address, and we noticed it in our report. The important subject of agricultural education receives a good share of the author's attention in this address, and we shall at another time present our readers with some interesting extracts on this subject.

Address of Hon. Asa T. Newhall, before the Essex Agricultural Society. This sensible discourse is distinguished for its practical character, giving useful instructions in the details and results of the author's experience in various branches of farming.

Letters to Ladies, in favor of Female Physicians, by Samuel Gregory, A. M., Secretary of the American Medical Education Society. Pamphlet, 48 pages. Boston: sold by Bela Marsh, 25 Cornhill. In this work, the author has ably maintained his commendable position by numerous and substantial reasons. Such is the peculiar innate modesty and delicacy of woman, that, in many cases, she should by all means be attended by physicians of her own sex; and we are happy to find a strong movement in favor of this natural privilege. This work should be in the hands of every lady in the country. Price 12½ cents. It may be forwarded by mail.

The Scholar's Leaf of the Tree of Knowledge, by Walker & Barrett, Portland, Me. Book form, semi-monthly, at fifty cents a year. This is one of the most interesting and instructive works for youth. Its plan is excellent, and it is ably conducted. A new volume commences with the year.

Transactions of the New Haven Horticultural Society. This work contains the excellent address of S. B. Parsons, Esq., of Flushing, N. Y., with the doings of the Society.

Report of the Annual Exhibition of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, containing various reports, &c., &c.

Address before the American Institute. An able discourse on the Progress and Improvements in the Mechanic Arts, by Rev. J. Alburtis, Assistant Editor of the Farmer and Mechanic.

Pathfinder Railway Guide, with a map of railways in New England. A valuable work to every traveller. Boston: Snow & Wilder.

A COUNTRY HOME FOR ME.

I do not ask that city spires
May round my mansion rise,
But that my home may be where trees
Are pointing to the skies;
Where flows the silvery mountain rill
With a sweet and merry sound,
And the echo of the hunter's gun
Shall through the woods resound.

I cannot love the city's pomp,
Its fashion and its pride;
I had rather dwell in a humble cot
Upon the mountain side,
Where sweetly blooms the acacia-tree,
The tulip, and the rose,
And where, beside the rivulet,
The early violet grows.

I would not give my quiet home,
Its happiness and health,
For all the city palaces,
Its pleasures and its wealth;
I love to breathe the mountain air,
And roam where all is free.
Let others choose a city life,
But a country home for me.

THE OLIO.

Argument and Assertion. — Assertion is like an arrow shot from a long bow; the force with which it strikes depends on the strength of the arm that draws it. But argument is like an arrow from a cross-bow, which has equal force, whether shot by a boy or a giant.

"I don't know where that boy got his temper; he did not take it from me." "Why, no, my dear; I don't perceive that you have lost any," was the affectionate reply.

"Give me a kiss, my charming Sal,"
A lover said to a blue-eyed *gal*.
"I won't," said she; "you lazy elf,
Screw up your lips, and help yourself."

Courtship of the late Dr. R. — "Dear Sir: I am sorry that I cannot accept your kind offer, as I am already engaged; but I am sure my sister Ann would jump at it. Your obliged, Eliza L."

"Dear Miss Eliza L.: I beg your pardon — I wrote your name in mistake; it was Miss Ann I meant to ask — have written to her per bearer. Hoping soon to be your affectionate brother, J. R."

An Irish veterinary student, when under examination, was asked what he would recommend if there was a horse brought to him with a particular disease. "Och! by the powers," was the answer, "I would recommend the owner to *get rid of him immediately.*"

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be neatly bound at 18¾ cents, or elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

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